

MARY BAKER EDDY MUSEUM

and Historic Sites



VOL. 14, NO. 2

PUBLISHED BY LONGYEAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 1977

SOWING THE SEED



Claremont School, left, and Fan Court School, right, both located in Surrey, southwest of London. Below, students at Fan Court, left, and Claremont, right

"This prize seems to be an urging onward for me . . .," a student wrote Longyear recently. Another said, "Thank you for your thoughtfulness in providing this recognition and the encouragement it brings." A college student wrote, "Thanks to you I have discovered a new and valuable source for ideas and truths on Christian Science."

These students had received gifts of copies of Mary Baker Eddy's writings from Longyear Historical Society. These books — and occasionally Bibles — are sent to college organizations throughout the world and to individual students at Principia College, Principia Upper School, Berkeley Hall School and The Daycroft School in the United States; Claremont School and Fan Court School in England; and Huntingtower School in Australia.

The founder of Longyear Historical

Society, Mrs. Mary Beecher Longyear, was active in spreading the teachings of Christian Science. She distributed *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy while on extended visits to Europe. Writing to *The Christian Science Journal* in 1897 she said: ". . . I

have been allowed to sow the seed in Paris, Dresden, and Rome. Fifty copies of *Science and Health* have been sold and distributed since last spring in Paris."¹ Thus it was natural for her to provide specifically in her deed of trust for Longyear to distribute copies of Mrs. Eddy's writings.



Quarterly News

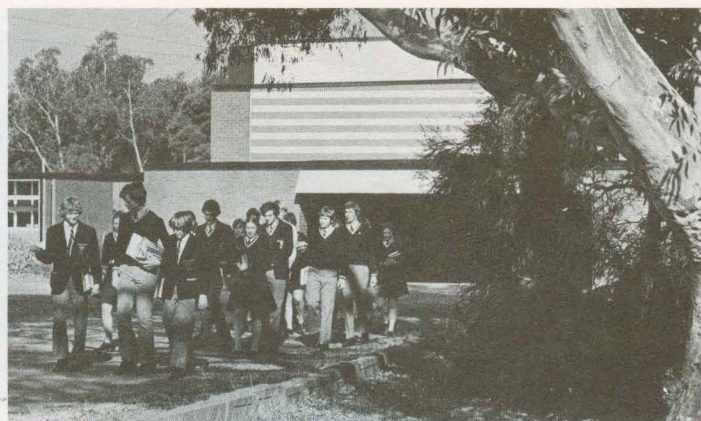
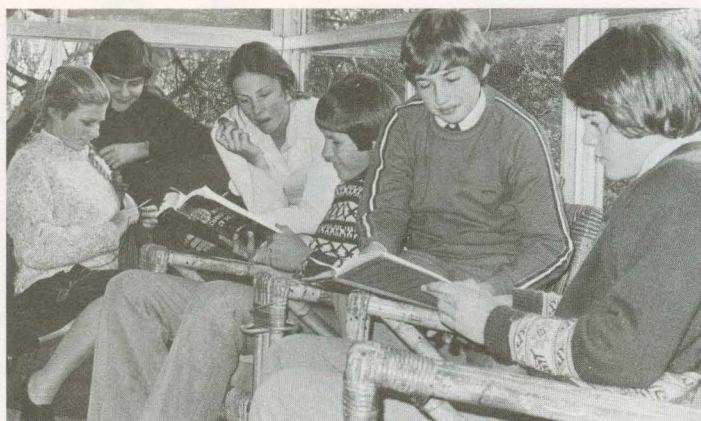
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Subscription, \$6.00 Annually

(Includes Activities at Longyear)

Sent without charge to Members of Longyear



Huntingtower School, near Melbourne, Australia provides elementary and high school education for both boys and girls.

She encouraged the Trustees of Longyear to make gifts of these books, particularly to institutions in foreign lands.

Gifts of books were sporadic over the early years of the organization, but in 1957 a continuing program was instituted. A requirement for Christian Science textbooks had developed in East Germany, and Longyear helped to supply that need by sending copies of *Science and Health* and accompanying Concordances. Distribution spread to other countries and soon books were being sent to such diverse places as Australia, Brazil, Chile, England, Greece, Indonesia, Norway, Pakistan, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. Mrs. Eddy's writings were sent to informal groups, nursing homes, libraries, schools, colleges and other institutions. In some cases complete sets of books were forwarded to groups that had none. These programs have continued as an important part of Longyear's activities.

Some schools have an awards program and Longyear gift books are

1. *The Christian Science Journal*, Vol. XV, June 1897, p. 142.

awarded in recognition of scholastic or other achievement. In other cases, books are given to scholarship students.

Of the schools currently participating in the program, Claremont, Fan Court and Huntingtower schools are probably less well known to our Members than the schools in the United States. Consequently, their historic backgrounds may be of interest.

Claremont School

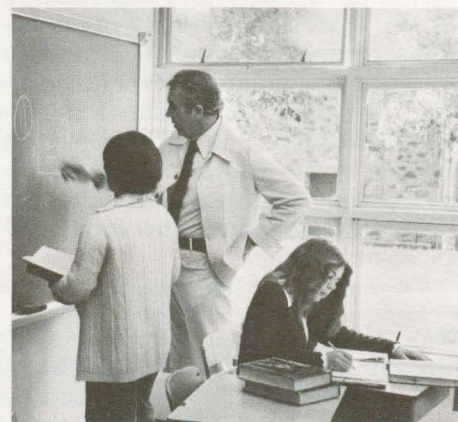
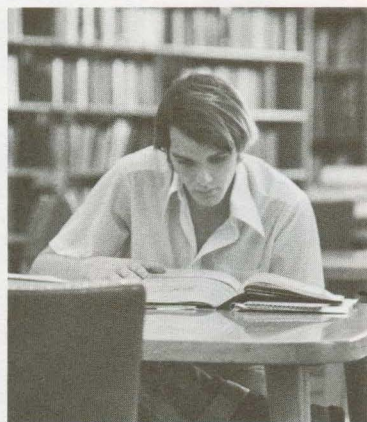
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Packer, who were Christian Scientists, were inspired by Mary Kimball Morgan and The Principia to establish "Clear View School" in Upper Norwood, England. The school opened in the Packer home in 1922 for girls aged 10-18.

The name "Claremont" came with the property the school bought nine years later in Esher, Surrey, which is southwest of London. The property included a beautiful eighteenth century house and many acres of grounds. Construction of the house began in 1768 for Lord Clive, a leader in Britain's expansion into India, and

was completed five years later. Designed by "Capability" Brown in the Palladian style, the house is still full of the dignified grace and charm of the period.

Shortly after its completion, the house and property came to the British Royal Family. Princess Charlotte and Prince Leopold (later King of the Belgians) lived in the house beginning in 1816. Louis Philippe and his family found refuge at "Claremont" when the 1848 Revolution ended his reign as King of France. Queen Victoria loved the estate and spent many happy hours there as a young girl and as queen. The Royal Family disposed of "Claremont" in 1922.

Except for necessary alterations to make it usable as a school, Claremont has maintained the house in its eighteenth century character and beauty. Students give guided tours of this historic house one weekend per month. The school has now expanded into the stable and carriage house. Recently a new building was completed which furnishes better dormitory, kitchen, music, art and gymnasium space.



Left to right, students at Berkeley Hall, Principia Upper School and Daycroft

HERBERT W. BECK, C.S.B.

A Board of Governors and large staff provide educational facilities for 300 girls aged 8-18. Most of the staff and all of the Board of Governors are Christian Scientists, as are the boarding students. The student body contains a large number of day students from the local community, most of whom are not Christian Scientists.

Claremont's purpose is to "train girls to be alert, poised, and enlightened citizens prepared to take up constructive careers." To fulfill this purpose, it offers a wide variety of college preparatory courses, including five languages. Its large and very active music program includes individual instruction, two choirs and an orchestra.

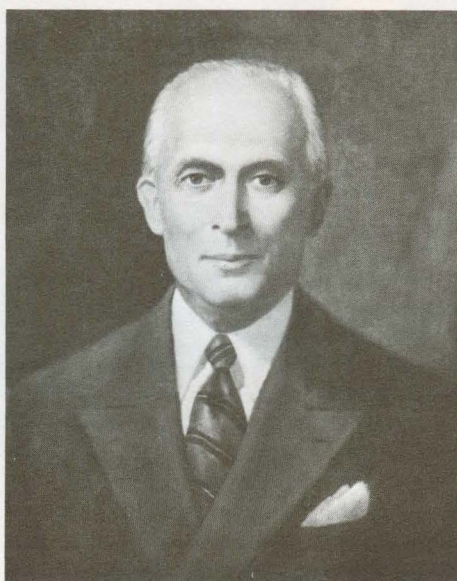
For those who board at the school, the housemistresses create a home-like atmosphere by their loving care. Thirty-two acres of property, trips to London, activities in the local community and their own pets give the girls a wide opportunity to develop.

Fan Court School

By the early 1930's about seventy-five percent of the students at St. Michael's, a school for boys in Uckfield, Sussex, England, were Christian Scientists, as were several of its masters. In the spring of 1932 Guy Snape, one of those masters, decided that the time had come to open a school specifically for boys from Christian Science homes.

Geith Plimmer, also a St. Michael's master, joined him and together they planned a school along the lines of Claremont. By opening day the following autumn, the first five students were furnished with a curriculum, teachers, a school building, a cook and school uniforms. The school was first housed at The Lodge in Banstead, Surrey, and moved to "Fan Court" two years later.

Fan Court, located at Long Cross, Chertsey, Surrey, also southwest of London, includes a mansion built between 1818 and 1820 and fifty-seven acres of grounds. Since 1934 the school has expanded from the main house into the stables and other buildings on the property. In the 1960's Fan Court enlarged its student body by inviting girls to attend. Today Fan Court furnishes education for about 160 boys and girls aged 3-14. They participate in a full grammar school curriculum, athletics and



HERBERT W. BECK

William F. Timmins

A portrait of Herbert W. Beck, C.S.B. was donated to Longyear by the pupils of his Christian Science Students' Association. This well rendered likeness in oil is by the artist William F. Timmins. The portrait is currently displayed in the rotunda of the Museum.

Mr. Beck, a native of the San Francisco Bay area in California, was a Christian Science practitioner, teacher and lecturer. He was active in institutional work, was a chaplain in World War I, and served as Committee on Publication. In 1903 Mr. Beck had Primary class instruction from Dr. Francis J. Fluno, C.S.D. and was a member of the Normal class of 1925 taught by Mrs. Emilie B. Hulin, C.S.D. (Portraits of Dr. Fluno and Mrs. Hulin are on display in the Museum.)

Mr. Beck attended the public schools in Oakland, California and graduated from the University of California. He was employed by the Pacific Coast Borax Company and became its Secretary-Director. However, in 1902 he resigned his position with the company to devote full time to the public practice of Christian Science.

In 1887, Mr. Beck's father was healed in Christian Science, and shortly afterward he himself was healed of tuberculosis. His increasing interest in Christian Science led him to join The Mother Church in June, 1899. It is interesting to note that Mr. Beck's first article published in the Christian Science Sentinel appeared

just over a month afterward, in the July 22 issue. Almost seventy articles written by him were published in the periodicals.

Beginning in the early 1900's, Mr. Beck pioneered work in the penal institutions of Northern California. Two letters reporting on this work were sent to Mrs. Eddy and were published in the August 7, 1902 and July 2, 1904 Sentinels. Later, during the First World War, he served as Chaplain in the United States Army, and is believed to be one of the first to have served in this capacity in the history of the Christian Science movement.

He served as assistant to Clifford P. Smith, then Manager of the Committees on Publication in Boston, during the years 1920 to 1926. After being taught in the Normal class he returned to Oakland to continue his work as practitioner and to begin teaching Christian Science. While living in Oakland, Mr. Beck served as Director and Reader in branch churches there.

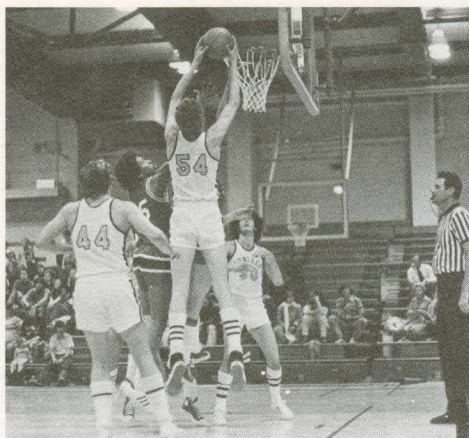
In October 1938 Mr. Beck began serving as Committee on Publication for Northern California, and in 1940 returned to Boston to become Manager of the Committees on Publication, succeeding the Hon. C. Augustus Norwood. He was appointed to the Christian Science Board of Lectureship in 1942.

William F. Timmins was encouraged early by his talented and widely known artist father, Harry L. Timmins, co-founder of the American Academy of Art in Chicago. William studied figure drawing under George Bridgeman at the Art Students League, painting under Harvey Dunn at Grand Central Art School, and portraiture under Karl Godwin in Westport, Connecticut.

While living in Connecticut he painted portraits and did illustrations for institutions, and magazine and book publishers. He had a number of one-man shows in New England, winning awards in both oil and watercolor. In 1965 he continued his career in Carmel, California, painting much of the time for art galleries in that state and Arizona. It was in 1976 that he completed the portrait of Mr. Beck.

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(Continued on page 216, col. 1)



Left to right, Principia College, Claremont, and Berkeley Hall students engaged in various sports

(Continued from page 215)

many other activities. About half of the students and almost all of the teachers are Christian Scientists.

Fan Court seeks to "provide a sound education" and to encourage students "to rely on Christian Science for healing and to apply it in their daily activities."

In 1976 the Councils of both these English schools agreed to combine, forming a joint policy-making body known as The Claremont Fan Court Foundation. Each school continues to operate individually with its own Board of Governors.

Huntingtower School

Christian Scientists established Huntingtower School in 1927 in Malvern, Victoria, Australia. It was founded with the "idea of education impelled by Christian Science," including these challenging conditions: "... firstly to provide a school education in harmony with the truths of Christian Science; secondly to provide a school atmosphere in which those truths are accepted, cherished, and consistently applied by pupils and teachers, all 'heirs of the same promise,' and all members of the one family."

In 1954 Huntingtower moved from its original location to new facilities in Mt. Waverley, Victoria, a suburb southeast of Melbourne. Here it offers outstanding elementary and high school education to both boys and girls. The student body has day as well as boarding students.

Each school participating in Longyear's book distribution program determines how to present Longyear's gift. Berkeley Hall School in California requests copies of *Science and*

Health for the students who read the school's Thanksgiving Day service. Other schools give books as awards for various achievements. Principia invites each new student on financial aid to select a book from Longyear.

A large part of Longyear's book distribution program involves the Christian Science organizations at colleges and universities throughout the world. To date 59 foreign and 398 United States colleges and universities have received books for the use of their Readers or their libraries. Recently Readers' books have been sent in the Newtype edition, which is the most convenient size for college organization Reader use. Longyear will also send replacement Readers' books on request.

Longyear is notified by The Mother Church when a new college organization is formed, and the organization is contacted to determine its interest in receiving the books. The donated books are sent to the organization with Longyear's bookplate on the flyleaf of each book.

Some of our Members may recall the school and college exhibit the Mary Baker Eddy Museum had on display in its Youth Room in 1969. This exhibit, prepared especially for that year's Biennial College Meeting, featured the schools mentioned in this article and listed all the Christian Science college organizations to which Longyear had sent books up to that time.

A new exhibit at the Museum will again feature the schools in Longyear's book program. It is expected to be more comprehensive and illustrative than the last one.

In recent years Longyear has appropriated approximately \$1000-\$1500 per year to support its book distribution program. Over 200 copies of Mrs. Eddy's writings and the Bible have been distributed yearly.

In thanking Longyear for a gift book, one Huntingtower student wrote, "I have always attempted to demonstrate Christian Science in my daily activities, but I never realized that I would receive any recognition for this. I am extremely grateful for your encouragement. Thank you for caring."

It is gratifying to know that Longyear's gift book program is continuing to supply inspiration and encouragement.

Carl Erikson

(Concluded from page 215)

Mr. Timmins is mentioned in *Who's Who in American Art* (since 1957), *All About the Illustrator*, and *Who's Who in Antiques and Art*. He is currently a member of the Society of Western Artists and the Carmel Art Association.

Richard C. Molloy

LONGYEAR FOUNDATION: Board of Trustees: Mrs. Marian H. Holbrook, Frederick D. Herberich, Robert C. Dale, Mrs. Marion D. Pierce. President: Richard C. Molloy. QUARTERLY NEWS is published four times annually, in the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter, at the headquarters of Longyear Historical Society, 120 Seaver Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02146. Inquiries about memberships, subscriptions, and its services are welcome.